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Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service



2000 Commercial Grape Report



United States Department of Agriculture

Survey Highlights:

Virginia ranks 9th nationally in commercial grape production.

Virginia's grape producers harvested 4,230.8 tons of commercial grapes in 2000, down 7 percent from 4,563.5 tons produced in 1999 but 33 percent above 1998.

Vineyard acreage has increased from 1,418 acres in 1995 to 2,146 acres in 2000, representing a 51 percent increase.

In 2000, 1,011 tons of Virginia grapes were sold. With the average price of a ton of grapes totaling \$1,200, Virginia grapes are valued at approximately \$1.2 million.

The Chardonnay variety made up 35 percent of Virginia's total production of all the Vinifera varieties harvested in 2000. Also, Virginia's most popular variety accounted for 39 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and 32 percent of the total vineyard acreage statewide.

Value of Grape Production Tops \$1.2 Million

Although grape production in 2000 was down compared to 1999, producers still harvested a crop valued at approximately \$1.2 million.

Weather conditions caused problems for Virginia's grape producers in 2000. The summer's pattern of cooler than normal temperatures and abundant rainfall continued into Fall, which caused delayed fruit maturity and increased disease pressure. Some varieties sustained significant rot losses. Fruit sorting on the vine or at the winery was a common necessity.

Market Conditions:

The increased grape production over the last few years has increased pressure on producers to maintain or increase crop quality and to contract crop sales well in advance of crop maturity. Some independent grape producers reported a softening market for certain Chardonnay clones, while demand for other varieties exceeded supply.



GRAPES: Virginia Production and Acreage by Variety

Variety	Tons Produced		Bearing		Non-Bearing	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Vinifera		_				
Chardonnay	1,402.4	1,191.0	409.7	509.8	135.3	113.3
Cabernet Sauvignon	551.6	465.7	201.7	190.8	40.4	59.1
Cabernet Franc	307.0	327.4	93.2	129.9	60.4	73.1
Gewurztraminer	61.6	39.5	13.5	17.5	3.8	2.9
Merlot	266.8	202.0	77.1	92.5	36.6	49.1
Pinot Noir	100.6	88.5	26.2	33.0	2.8	2.5
Sauvignon Blanc	50.8	39.8	17.7	16.7	1.4	1.4
White Riesling	418.9	464.0	120.9	126.1	4.7	10.2
Viognier	1/	196.7	1/	64.1	1/	24.5

Variety	Tons Produced		Bearing		Non-Bearing	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Other White Vinifera	240.0	125.4	84.9	42.8	56.2	16.5
Other Red Vinifera	212.9	223.7	50.5	71.1	77.2	64.9
Hybrid		_				
Seyval	188.2	135.8	78.8	59.3	2.3	8.9
Vidal Blanc	383.3	379.4	106.0	118.9	44.5	24.5
Chambourcin	67.2	72.5	32.9	30.0	9.0	15.2
Other White Hybrid	41.0	41.5	30.3	28.4	9.0	10.9
Other Red Hybrid	17.7	17.4	15.1	10.7	5.3	3.9
American		_				
Concord	151.5	149.8	36.7	33.8	1.4	1.7
Niagara	40.6	19.4	13.1	12.4	6.6	12.5
Seedless Table (all)	6.8	3.4	5.0	2.5	0.6	0.8
Norton	2/	38.4	2/	22.1	2/	31.2
Other Red/Black American	48.8	4.9	18.8	2.8	30.5	1.9
Other White American	5.8	4.6	2.2	1.6	1.5	0.5
STATE TOTAL	4,563.5	4,230.8	1,434.3	1,616.8	529.5	529.5

^{/1} The Viognier variety was included in the Other White Vinifera category in previous years.

GRAPES PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE BY DISTRICT AND COUNTY, 1999-2000

District and County	Tons Pi	roduced	Bearing		Non-Bearing	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Northern						
Culpeper	96.1	89.4	23.1	36.0	19.5	19.5
Fauquier	336.1	197.7	169.4	125.0	39.8	11.8
Loudoun	432.1	418.9	141.5	166.9	57.0	58.4
Madison	502.5	700.5	96.3	164.6	10.3	3.8
Rappahannock	114.1	69.3	47.7	36.7	22.3	18.5
Rockingham	61.5	52.2	19.5	19.7	0.5	2.8
Shenandoah	94.8	123.0	39.7	52.7	31.1	15.5
Warren	54.6	29.2	19.0	18.5	1.8	6.0
Other Counties	78.8	74.2	37.2	39.4	4.3	28.4
District Total	1,770.6	1,754.4	593.4	659.5	186.6	164.7
Western						
Augusta	155.5	155.1	33.0	37.7	8.0	16.5
Roanoke	69.7	65.4	22.9	31.1	3.9	2.0
Other Counties	70.6	101.0	26.3	30.9	14.0	17.0
District Total	295.8	321.5	82.2	99.7	25.8	35.5

^{/2} The Norton variety was included in the Other Red/Black American category in previous years.

District and County	Tons Produced		Bearing		Non-Bearing	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
Central						
Albemarle	528.5	546.2	185.0	201.1	86.8	85.2
Bedford	37.0	17.7	16.5	8.8	5.5	7.1
Greene	57.9	42.4	23.5	23.3	7.9	11.4
Nelson	102.3	87.4	43.8	40.4	19.3	46.7
Orange	860.1	816.9	159.1	245.0	55.7	14.8
Prince Edward	7.9	2.8	6.0	5.0	0.3	1.0
Spotsylvania	38.4	26.5	13.0	19.2	11.6	3.5
Other Counties	69.3	42.4	47.8	56.3	32.6	42.5
District Total	1,701.4	1,582.3	494.7	599.1	219.7	212.2
Eastern						
Essex	81.2	87.9	26.2	31.3	4.8	
King George	73.5	47.7	25.6	25.7	3.4	7.2
Westmoreland	197.1	167.4	52.4	47.2	31.0	20.0
Other Counties	278.0	148.0	94.8	84.0	24.2	45.7
District Total	629.8	451.0	199.0	188.2	63.4	72.9
Other District Total	165.9	121.6	65.0	70.3	34.0	44.2
STATE TOTAL	4,563.5	4,230.8	1,434.3	1,616.8	529.5	529.5

Some county totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Production and acreage are indluded in district and state totals.

GRAPE PRODUCTION AND BEARING ACREAGE ALL TYPES, 1999-2000 /1

State	Tons Produced		Bearing		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	
California	5,542,000	6,687,000	790,000	837,000	
Washington	265,000	265,000	41,000	44,000	
New York	205,000	154,000	31,500	31,500	
Pennsylvania	88,000	63,000	12,800	12,800	
Michigan	75,000	86,500	11,700	12,500	
Oregon	17,900	18,600	7,400	8,100	
Arizona	21,000	20,000	4,100	4,100	
Ohio	9,200	7,700	2,000	2,000	
Virignia/2	4,600	4,200	1,400	1,600	
Arkansas	4,900	4,200	1,400	1,400	
Georgia	3,300	3,500	1,200	1,200	
Missouri	2,800	2,950	800	850	
North Carolina	1,900	2,300	500	600	
South Carolina	360	520	300	400	

^{/1} Bearing acreage and production are final for 1999, figures may be revised. Bearing acreage and production for 2000 are preliminary.

^{/2} Virginia production and bearing acres rounded to the nearest 100.